

postmodernism

being after modernism

What was modernism? In the visual arts: Picasso, Abstract Expressionism; music: Stravinsky, literature T.S. Eliot

1. vs. eclecticism, for the clean, machine age, Bauhaus, form follows function
2. novelty and originality, always avant garde
3. reject decoration, ornament; for geometric, clear
4. vs. national, regional, vernacular, for the international and cosmopolitan
5. art of the future--would affect society (but fundamentally elitist--intellectuals will decide) example: Le Corbusier housing blocks

“High Modernism” stands apart from, above, popular and commercial mass culture.

postmodernism

characteristics:

1. plurality of styles, hybrid, eclecticism
2. recycling of styles, "retro style"; quotations, collage, parody, pastiche
3. ornament and decoration
4. mix high and low culture, assumes various responses from general public and those "in the know"--[a kind of irony] but makes work accessible to both
5. concern with meaning, statement (art can communicate, this should be a concern of the artist)
6. "intertextuality" constant reference to the world of art, of media itself, as an artificial but real part of existence. Art and discourse structure the way we understand the world of "the Real". Out there is in here.